



World Boxing Organization

**COVID-19
PROTOCOL**



Recommendations for Health and Safety Guidelines Under Covid-19 Environment

The WBO, among other membership, consists of the National and Regional Boxing Commissions, Federations and National Bodies around the world. We have attempted to collect best practices from Member and Non-Member Commissions and government bodies to develop advisory guidelines for WBO Members to consider as they return to Professional Boxing. The promulgation and enforcement of all applicable Covid-19 protocols, procedures, and regulations are conducted solely under the jurisdiction of the licensing host commission.

Introduction:

The World Boxing Organization provides these health and safety guidelines as a reference in support of all regulatory and administrative bodies (i.e., Commissions, Federations, National Bodies, etc.) with jurisdiction over professional boxing upon returning to its activities under a Covid-19 environment. These recommendations are intended to serve in conjunction with the applicable laws, rules, and regulations administered by local and government authorities, whereby the safety and well-being of all participants are assured. The WBO acknowledges safety and prevention is paramount for a successful return of professional boxing. Under no circumstances, these guidelines are intended to replace, substitute, or modify existing procedures, laws, rules, and regulations enforced by Federal, State, and local government entities. The safety and well-being of all participants is the sole and exclusive responsibility of the local host commission and pertinent government authorities.

Covid-19 - General Info

Covid-19 is a highly contagious, acute respiratory illness caused by a new human coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2, frequently referred to as the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19 virus. Understanding how Covid-19 is spread may improve preventive strategy actions, including situations where guidance may not be immediately available. It is believed to be spread mainly from person-to-person contact, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, breaths, laughs, or sings. These droplets can land in the mouths, noses, or eyes of people who are nearby. Generally, this is believed to occur between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).

Furthermore, Covid-19 is also spread when respiratory droplets land on a surface and get picked up by our hands, and our hands then touch our eyes, nose, or mouth. Covid-19, other viruses and bacteria generally enter our body through mucus membranes, a different type of skin seen on our eyes, nose, and mouth. They do not generally enter via our hands or other skin found on our bodies. It is possible that COVID-19 can survive on some surfaces for several hours, even days.

According to medical reports, a significant percentage of all infections occur in people without any symptoms, which are referred to as "Silent carriers" that may expose and spread the disease among others unknowingly. However, those people who do develop or experience symptoms it can take from 2-14 days from the infection triggering time for the occurrence of symptoms (on average 5 days). These are also considered vectors to spread the COVID-19 disease because they may not know or be aware of their infection.

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These are the known Covid-19 symptoms:

- Dry cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Body aches
- Sore throat
- Loss of smell or taste

Training – In General

The current consensus of best practices regarding personal hygiene and personal protective measures are that these shall always be practiced. All boxers shall train at home or in isolation unless otherwise determined national, state, local, and/or government authorities.

Training with Team Member(s):

*The current consensus of best practices are that all participants shall wear personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, face shields, etc.)

Boxers can train in conjunction with a team member(s) (Trainer, Seconds), under the following scenarios:

Stage 1. No Contact

- Boxer and Team Member(s) shall maintain social distancing of 6 feet (2 M) upon executing any training method that avoids physical contact.
- Training equipment shall not be shared (Gloves, Water Bottles, Towels).
- Basic personal hygiene measures shall be done prior, during, and after training sessions (Hand washing for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap).
- If soap and water are not readily available, the current consensus of best practice is using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- The current consensus of best practices are sanitizing and/or sterilizing training facility, equipment, surfaces, communal facilities (Bathrooms & showers) prior to and after training sessions.
- Showering before and after training sessions with soap and water is highly recommended
- Spitting or clear nasal secretions in publicly accessed or communal facilities shall be avoided (Risks of infection).
- Training sessions shall be coordinated and time-limited (Occupancy risks).
- Each boxer shall be responsible for adequate disposal of their personal belongings (Avoid potential cross-contamination).
- The current consensus of best practices is using face masks when moving in public or outdoor facilities.
- Stay home if you are sick or feel any related symptoms.

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Stage 2. Advanced Training Methods with Coach & Team Member(s)
No government restrictions

Advanced training methods, including but not limited to:

- Speedball, pads, mitts, bags, paddles, etc.
- Social distancing measures shall continue enforced.
- No contact or sparring.
- Shadow boxing.
- A coach shall wear a protective facial mask (Surgical mask, cloth mask, face shield).
- No more than 10 persons inside the gym or training facility observing social distancing measures (This occupancy may vary depending on the size of the facility).

Stage 3. Physical Training with Coach & Team Member(s)
No government restrictions

- The current consensus of best practices is that both participants (Boxer/Coach/Team) should be subject to testing (Test Negative Covid-19) prior to engaging in any physical contact.
- All parties shall not reflect any related symptoms of the virus.
- Sparring activities may resume.
- Limited access to gym or training facilities strictly to essential personnel.

Important Notice:

The current consensus of best practices upon government restrictions being lifted, and therefore allowing the return to training facilities and gyms is that these facilities should comply with the public health guidelines of the Centre of Disease Control, World Health Organization and, National and local health and safety recommendations.

General Recommendations for Training Facilities and Gyms

- Daily schedule for sanitization procedures inside the training facility/gym and its premises.
- Daily schedule attendance for participants & fighters (*If limited occupancy is required by local authorities).
- Limited time usage of facility/gym per participants & fighters.
- Communal facilities should be frequently sanitized.
- Sanitizing materials available upon entry and exit areas to facility/gym.
- Social distancing measure shall be continuously enforced.
- Any symptomatic individual should not be at facility/gym.
- Stay home if you feel sick or have any related symptoms.

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Professional Boxing Activities Resume

Section 1. Participants – In General

The current consensus of best practices is that only those essential, critical, and indispensable personnel for the staging and production of the event be allowed inside the venue and its premises. All social distancing guidelines and safety protocols shall be enforced at all times. All authorized personnel in attendance shall be medically cleared and tested negative for Covid-19 in order to participate in the event.

Section 1.1 – Closed-Door Events – No Fan Attendance

The current consensus of best practices is that the following individuals shall be considered essential, critical, and indispensable personnel authorized to participate in the event, but not limited to, the following:

a) Production personnel

- T.V. staff, general operations, security personnel, and related therewith

b) Promotional personnel

- Event promoter and his staff

c) Local boxing commission representatives and inspectors, officials (judges & referee), time keeper, etc.

d) Medical personnel including the Licensed ringside physician, EMT's, and related therewith

C) Specialized medical personnel

- Exclusive for administering Covid-19 protocol and procedures as per the local host commission in accordance with local and government regulations

D) Participant Boxers and limited team personnel

- Boxer participant and no more than two (2) cornermen, and not more than one manager

E) WBO Supervisor representative

F) Doping control officers

G) Subject to local commission authorization, limited press and media personnel

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Section 1. 2 Event Recommendations

The current consensus of best practices are as follows:

- a) The event promoter should conduct temperature screening and any other safety protocol (i.e., Social distancing guidelines) as required by the local host commission for all event personnel, boxer participants and their respective teams, upon arrival at the designated venue (i.e., hotel & event venue).
- b) All event personnel, boxer participants and their teams should be provided a pre-event screening questionnaire which includes a declaration of travel and symptoms, if any, in the past 14 days .
- c) Daily monitoring of all personnel at the designated hotel and prior entry to the event venue.
- d) Masks and other required PPE should be worn, and social distancing shall be enforced in vehicles with other persons and in public places.
- e) Transportation arrangements should be established with proper PPE and social distancing measures.
- f) The promoter should consider limiting the number of bouts to minimize the number of participants' risk or exposure.
- g) The ring shall be disinfected before the first bout and between bouts.
- h) Referee shall wear all required personal protection as per the local commission protocol, rules and regulations.
- i) All ringside personnel should wear gloves and protective masks.
- j) Nearest medical institution shall be notified by the local host commission before the show in the event a boxer or any other participant needs medical attention.
- k) All cornermen must wear gloves and masks at all times prior, during and after the course of the bout
- l) Boxing participants and team member(s) must adhere and comply with local commission protocols upon arrival to designated venue (i.e., quarantine, tests, etc.)
- m) Local host commission and event promoter shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, guidelines, and protocols related to the safety and security of all involved personnel and participants.
- n) Generally, the applicable CDC/WHO Covid-19 safety guidelines for a comparable gathering should be adhered.

Section 1.3 – Official Weigh-In – In General

The current consensus of best practices are as follows:

- a) Only licensed, tested, and approved personnel should attend the Weigh-in ceremony. All attending boxing participants must be medically cleared and tested negative for Covid-19.
- b) All attending personnel should be subject to temperature screening prior to entering the weigh-in designated area and should show proof of negative Covid-19 test results within X days of the weigh-in
- c) Seating setup should comply with social distancing guidelines.
- d) All attending personnel should wear masks covering the mouth and nose and should comply with social distancing guidelines at all times.

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Section 1.4 – Rules Reading Ceremony

The current consensus of best practices are as follows:

- a) Occupancy of the rules reading and glove selection room should be restricted exclusively to authorized personnel, boxer participants and team members
- b) Rules reading ceremony shall be conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines
- c) All authorized personnel must wear masks at all times.

Section 1.5 - Fan Attendance Event

When local government authorities authorize holding professional sports events with live spectators, appropriate measures to avoid the risk of exposure or spread of Covid-19 should be implemented. All participants are aware of and should acknowledge their risk of exposure, particularly when traveling with special attention to hotels, transportation, restaurants, and other focuses of infection.

The current consensus of best practices are as follows include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) All critical personnel as per Section 1.1. of these guidelines, shall be medically cleared and tested negative for Covid-19 in order to participate in any capacity during the event.
- b) Boxers and teams traveling overseas should be licensed and cleared for competition by their respective local host commission regarding Covid-19 tests before traveling internationally to compete.
- c) All event personnel and attending fans shall be subject to all screening and Covid-19 testing protocols as required by the local and government authorities.
- d) Promotors should establish with Local Host Boxing Commissions and advise all Participating personnel whether a Local boxing commission may require boxing participants and their teams to self-quarantined for 14 days upon arrival at the designated venue hotel before the event.
- e) Local commission and event promoter shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, guidelines, and protocols related to the safety and security for an event with fan attendance.

Section 2 Health and Safety Procedures – In General

The current consensus of best practices as to general health and safety procedures include, but are not limited to the following:

Section 2.1 Social Distancing

Social distancing guidelines shall be constantly implemented at all times throughout the venue and its premises.

- a) Boxers and their respective teams (cornermen) shall be provided separate locker rooms from other participants and their teams, cleaned and disinfected prior to use.

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b) Boxers and their respective teams (cornermen) shall strictly adhere to and comply with the staging and movement of personnel protocol designed for social distancing purposes as determined by the local host commission and event promoter.

c) Social distancing signs and markers shall be established within the venue designated areas and premises

d) Spaces shall be arranged inside the venue and premises in compliance with the social distancing protocol

e) Spectator seating shall be arranged with a distancing of no less than six feet from each other. We suggest the following as an example:

A fan seated at Row 1 Seat A, Seat B (Middle) shall be empty and Seat C Occupied, Seat D (Middle) shall be empty, Seat E Occupied, etc. There shall be one full row per section (front and back) from the fan seated row. (i.e., Between Row 1-3)

f) Hand-shakes and other similar contact greetings shall be prohibited and this indicated on warning signage (section 2.1c).

g) All individuals whether critical and/or fans in attendance must wear masks and any other required protective equipment as per local and government laws, rules, regulations, guidelines, and/or event promoter determinations.

h) No fans will be allowed to stand during the event unless for exiting purposes and/or bathroom services through the notification of an event personnel.

i) Any spectator who exits the venue should not be allowed reentrance for security purposes

j) The host hotel should implement strict social distancing, sanitary, disinfection and screening protocols at all times.

Section 2.3 Hygiene & Sanitary Measures

a) The venue and premises should be sanitized by a qualified company and carried out in accordance with the applicable local and government protocols.

b) The event promoter shall provide sufficient materials and facilities (i.e., sanitizing stations) to carry out hygiene measures (i.e., hand washing, soap, alcohol-based gel or disinfectants) within the designated areas (i.e., entrances, exits, bathrooms, locker rooms, designated spectator rows, ringside area, etc.)

c) All participants and attendees shall practice respiratory etiquette (keep the applicable social distance: for example, at least 1 meter or 6 feet as the case may be, cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or a bent elbow, wash their hands frequently or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% ethanol) Any used tissues should be disposed of immediately in the proper receptacle.

d) Proper signage showing the main and universal hygiene measures should be established within all designated areas.

e) Proper containers will be provided in all designated areas, including locker rooms with lids for the sanitary disposal of tissues, masks, gloves, and other used disposables.

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Section 3. Screening Procedures – In General

The current consensus of best practices is that all event personnel and individuals, whether at a closed-door event or fan attendance events, shall be subject to the following screening procedures and guidelines. These screening and testing protocols should be implemented by a licensed medical testing staff in conjunction with the local host commission regulations and designated laboratory personnel.

Section 3.1 Temperature Screening

- a) All personnel will have their temperature taken using a method approved by the event management organization. If any person has a temperature at or greater than that established as elevated by the local government authorities, the person will not be permitted to enter the arena or remain on-premises.
- b) In fan attendance events, all individuals must adhere and comply with all applicable screening procedures implemented by the event promoter, local host commission in accordance with local, and government rules and regulations

Section 3.1 Questioning – In General

All Personnel shall be subject to answer a series of questions prior to entering the venue, including: (i) whether the person has recently traveled internationally or domestically as the case may be with sustained or ongoing transmission of Covid-19; (ii) whether the person has had known contact with a confirmed carrier of Covid-19 or a person who has been ill due to Covid-19; and (iii) whether the person lives in the same home or quarters with another person who may be suspected, or confirmed to have contracted Covid-19.

Furthermore, all personnel will be asked a series of health questions prior to entry the event venue, including: (i) whether the person has, during the prior two weeks, experienced any symptoms of fever, coughing, sneezing, headache, body aches, fatigue, shortness of breath, vomiting and/or diarrhea, and (ii) whether the person has experienced a sudden loss of taste or smell.

Section 3.2 Testing – In General

The current consensus of best practices is that all personnel first be subject to the applicable screening and temperature procedures set forth by the host commission as per local and government protocols. Upon satisfactory completion of these procedures, all personnel should then undergo the correspondent Covid-19 test protocol. The Covid-19 testing procedures shall be in accordance with the local host commissions, and local government authority protocols provided by a premier, licensed certified laboratory expert in medical testing. All event personnel, boxer participants and their teams must successfully pass all applicable and required Covid-19 testing procedures (Test Negative) in order to participate in the event.

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Regarding Covid-19 Testing procedures, currently, these are the following:

a) Nasopharyngeal or Nasal swab sampling followed by testing for the specific presence of COVID-19 RNA is the most common test for COVID-19, and is recommended by the CDC as a diagnostic test for an active case of COVID-19. The tester performs sampling by inserting a Q-tip like swab through the nose, pushing it back to contact the rear of the subject's throat, then rotating it to collect any viral specimens that are present area. After sampling, swabs are placed in tubes for preservation and shipped promptly to the lab for viral RNA testing using an RT-PCR method.

b) Rapid results COVID-19 screening tests, such as the Abbott ID-NOW COVID-19 screening test can provide results at the site of sampling in as little as 5 minutes. This test has been approved by the CDC, but it not available at all locations. Other rapid turnaround tests are currently available, and these may be acceptable for use upon approval by the commission and local authorities.

c) Antigen screening is a test to identify people with signs of past infection of COVID-19 virus. At this time, science does not conclusively support the use of antibody testing to clear someone from the potential of future infection because it has not determined if or how long a recovered person could be immune. All boxers, coaches, and other officials must follow all guidelines, regardless of prior COVID-19 infection or positive antibody testing. Until more is known, all event personnel, boxer participants, and their respective teams must adhere and comply with the implemented testing protocol set forth by the event promoter in accordance with the applicable protocol established by the local host commission as per local and government regulations. The local host commission shall review the results and issue a determination as to whether the person is a risk to others if they remain on the premises. If so, the person will be required to leave the premises immediately and should not participate in the event. The local host commission may request all event personnel to remain self-quarantined during the until the results of the Covid-19 tests are received by the medical staff from the correspondent laboratory.

The current consensus of best practices is that the body temperature measurements and questioning procedures be repeated each morning by all personnel, including those that passed the initial screening prior to entry the venue.

Section 4. Protective Guidelines – Personal Protection – In General

All personnel at the venue are expected to come to the venue with personal protective equipment, including face masks (i.e., N95, Cloth, Surgical, etc.). The protective equipment should be made available as necessary on-site upon arrival at the venue by the event promoter in conjunction with the applicable protocol set forth by the local host commission as per local and government regulations.

All event personnel and fans in attendance are required to wear face masks at all times inside the venue and comply with social distancing guidelines. Only those boxer participants during the course of the bout and authorized individuals, as designated by the local host commission may be exempted from using the required personal protective equipment as set forth herein.

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Section 5. – Self Reporting – In General

The current consensus of best practices is that all event personnel, including boxing participants and their respective teams, cooperate with self-reporting procedures if required and determined by the local host commission and event promoter. If you are presenting any related COVID-19 symptoms, or have been in contact with anyone exhibiting any of the above-referenced symptoms please comply with the following:

- a) Immediately report your symptoms to the local host commission licensed physician or event medical staff and adhere to all advice provided by such expert, including self-quarantined, testing and applicable treatment
- b) Immediately notify an official event promoter member, or local host commission representative
- c) If you are a boxer participant or team member (i.e., cornermen), you must immediately notify an official event promoter member, or local host commission representative .

Section 6. Cleaning and Sanitizing Procedures – In General

The current consensus of best practices requires that the event venue be cleaned and sanitized prior to commencing the event. The following key points should be considered:

- a) All surfaces requiring sanitization (including the ring mat and related areas in between bouts) will be sanitized with disinfectants against viruses and other germs
- b) Cleaning sanitizing materials/solutions shall be selected in alignment with the appropriate guidelines (CDC and/or WHO)
- c) The event venue will be cleaned and sanitized prior to the entry of any event personnel and participants
- d) Janitorial staff will wear face masks and gloves at all times during cleaning and sanitization
- e) Hand sanitizer stations will be placed inside the venue within designated areas (i.e., locker rooms, halls, ringside, entrances, exits, etc.)

As groups of different personnel enter and leave the various zones of the venue to which they are designated for a period of time, janitorial staff will be cleaning and sanitizing such areas prior to the entry of a new group of personnel or participants.

WHO guidance:

<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/key-planning-recommendations-for-mass-gatherings-in-the-context-of-the-current-covid-19-outbreak>
CDC Guidance for large events.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/index.html>

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